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**Schmitt, Siegfried: Indische Handschriften, Teil 20. Generalregister für  
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XXXIII).Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2018, 500 Seiten, ISBN  
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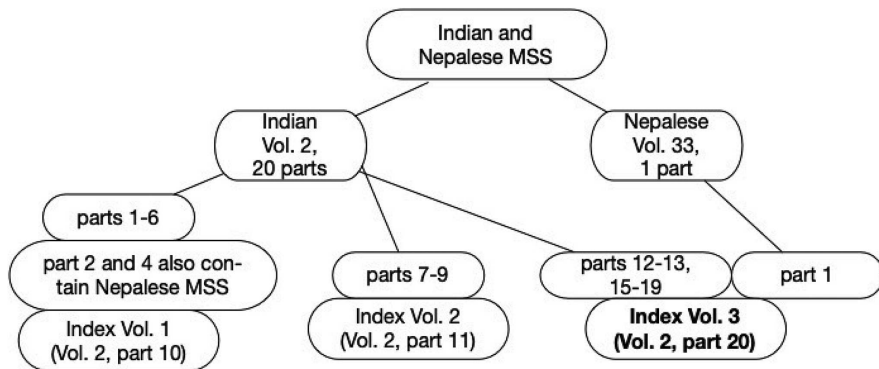
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This is a brief review of the vol. 2, part 20 of the VOHD, appeared in the series *Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland*. This series has a complex structure, which needs to be addressed here. The series consist up to date of at least 45 volumes, some of those have multiple subparts.



Vol. 2 subpart 3 and 14 are not addressed by the 3 Index volumes as they deal with South-Indian Languages

Among these 45 volumes, the Indian and Nepalese manuscripts are dealt with respectively in the Vol. 2 and the Volume 33 of the series. The volume 2 has 20 subparts (including the volume being reviewed), volume 33 has so far only the first part published.

The volume 2, part 20, is the third Index volume being published in this series covering Indian and Nepalese manuscripts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This overview does not cover related, South-Indian or Turfan manuscripts, which have separate Index volumes. Vol. 2, part 14 has not been published, and will contain Tamil materials.

Volume 2.20, that sees itself as conclusive and final index-volume.<sup>2</sup> It updates the information on all volumes covering Indian and Nepalese materials (excluding the South-Indian languages) that have been published before, and it has the following structure:

Parts 2 to 5 mentioned below are supposed to cover all materials from volumes 2 and 33, except for the South-Indian languages, they thus include partly the materials from the Index volumes (VOHD 2.10-11).

1. Foreword, p. 7–9, covering the history of publication in VOHD of the Indian and Nepalese materials, and the structure and the place of each particular volume is very helpful.

Parts 2 to 5 mentioned below are supposed to cover all materials from volumes 2 and 33, except for the South-Indian languages, they thus include partly the materials from the Index volumes (VOHD 2.10-11).

2. The manuscripts listed by their places of storage (in 10 libraries) and the library signatures (covering 86 pages), with some up-to-date changes. Counting by signatures there are 5629 items. Many of these are composite manuscripts containing multiple titles.
3. The collided list of all text titles (standardization procedure applied by Siegfried Schmitt has been described in foreword). This part covers 249 pages, and contains some 13,000 titles. Counting roughly the number of unique text titles on random pages and applying the proportion to the rest, this would give approximately 8700 unique textual titles. These numbers are approximative, due for example, to the fact that the composite manuscripts have only one cataloguing number, while containing multiple texts. The variant text-names have not been linked together, which of course reduces the total number of items. For example, *Mālinīvijayottara* is listed just above *Mālinīvijayottaratantra*, both are linked to II, 2, 641, i. e. apparently it is one and the same item. On the other hand, one cannot guess if *Mantrakośa* II,2, zu 926 and II,9 bei u. zu 3894 are two independent texts or one and the same. Dealing with such issues would definitely require more work and a creation of a databank.
4. The index of persons, with standardized names, covers 125 pages, and thus more than 6000 names, of which around 3700 would be unique persons linked to the history of transmission of those manuscripts. This is an invaluable source in itself.

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<sup>2</sup> Called “Generalregister für die Kataloge indischer und nepalischer Handschriften (VOHD II und XXXIII)”.

5. The next part represents a list of dates (chronological) for the dated manuscripts, and it covers the items from thirteenth century on to 1965 as for the Indian manuscript volumes. The Nepalese manuscripts listed there, feature four different systems (N.E., Śaka, Vikr. E. and A.D.), and they have not been arranged chronologically.
6. Index of the “subjects”, such as Veda, Epos (21 subjects in total<sup>3</sup>) covers only the volume VOHD II, parts 12–13, and 15–19.<sup>4</sup> This part classifies the manuscripts by their signatures under these somewhat artificial categories, standing midway between traditional Indian classification of the subjects (Veda – Itihāsa – Purāṇa) and the needs to update those structures in the modern context. This modern context, however, imprinted the classification with theological separation between “Formaler Kultus” (Stotra, Mantra, Kavaca) and “Praktischer Kultus” (Namaskāra, Pūjā, Vidhi, etc.). Working on tantric manuscripts, I have never encounter even one that would strictly fit only one of these two categories, but not the other. This remark, however, concerns all VOHD volumes.

Siegfried Schmitt has done an enormous work of cleaning up and standardization of the textual material, which, at the present day should and can be presented as an online databank. The electronic version of the published and future volumes of VOHD is eagerly awaited.

With the two published VOHD volumes (2 and 33), consisting as of today of 19 subparts, published from 1962 to 2018, the publicly available information on the manuscript titles preserved in Germany, covers only a part of what is actually stored in the German libraries. For instance, the key MSS Hs. Or. 8535, being the 3rd śaṭka of the *Jayadrathayāmala*, cannot be located in VOHD volumes by title or by signature, and is mentioned only in the works by A. Sanderson.<sup>5</sup> One can only hope that this manuscript and other yet unknown to the public treasures will be included and properly identified in the parts of volume 2 and 33 that are yet to be published.

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3 1. Veda (with 5 subcategories), 2. Epos (4), 3. Tantra, 4. Smṛti, 5. Formaler Kultus, 6. Praktischer Kultus, 7. Dharmanibandha, 8. Dichtung und Prosa (6), 9. Historik, 10. Biographie, 11. Philosophie (8), 12. Grammatik, 13. Lexikon, 14. Poetik, 15. Metrik, 16. Musik, 17. Medizin und Erotik, 18. Mathematik, 19. Astrologie, Astronomie, u. ä., 20. Buddhistische Literatur, 21. Jainistische Literatur.

4 Other volumes were indexed by the subjects in the previous two index volumes, VOHD 2.10–11.

5 It is though now available for free online, misidentified as śaṭka 1: [https://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/werkansicht?PPN=PPN898781620&PHYSID=PHYS\\_0436&DMDID=DMDLOG\\_0001](https://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/werkansicht?PPN=PPN898781620&PHYSID=PHYS_0436&DMDID=DMDLOG_0001)

Jayadrathayāmala: Śaṭka 1, saṃvat 787 bhādrapada śukla daśamīdina [1667].